

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of validation support comprising:
  - inputting functional configuration information that represents a function of an apparatus to be validated;
  - 5 inputting a condition for an input/output sequence that is assigned to the apparatus;
    - generating a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and
    - extracting a combination of configuration elements that constitute the
  - 10 functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item function.
  
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein
  - the validation item function is expressed by a binary decision diagram, and
  - 15 the validation item is extracted based on the validation item function that is expressed by the binary decision diagram.
  
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition for the input/output sequence includes a resource constraint condition for a functional device in the
  - 20 configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information.
  
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition for the input/output sequence includes a condition that makes a limitation on a configuration element to be validated among the configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration
  - 25 information.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein  
priority information is added to a functional device in the configuration  
elements that constitutes the functional configuration information, and  
5 the method further comprises calculating a validation priority based on the  
priority information of the functional device for each validation item.
6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
inputting number of validation items to be extracted, wherein  
10 the validation item is extracted based on the number of validation items input.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
converting validation item description information that describes an operation  
of the functional device that constitutes the functional configuration information into  
15 information that does not describe the operation of the functional device, wherein  
the information converted is input as the functional configuration information.
8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
inputting a validation environment that defines a flow of data that is input to  
20 and output from the apparatus to be validated; and  
creating an input/output sequence to be applied to the apparatus to be  
validated, based on the validation environment and the validation item.
9. The method according to claim 7, wherein  
25 the functional configuration information is input from a predetermined

- information terminal via a network,  
the condition for the input/output sequence is input from the information  
terminal via the network, and  
the validation item is output to the information terminal via the network.
- 5
10. The method according to claim 8, wherein  
the functional configuration information is input from a predetermined  
information terminal via a network,  
the condition for the input/output sequence is input from the information  
10 terminal via the network,  
the validation environment is input from the information terminal via the  
network,  
the validation item is output to the information terminal via the network, and  
the input/output sequence is output to the information terminal via the network.
- 15
11. A computer program that makes a computer execute:  
inputting functional configuration information that represents a function of an  
apparatus to be validated;  
inputting a condition for an input/output sequence that is assigned to the  
20 apparatus;  
generating a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the  
input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and  
extracting a combination of configuration elements that constitute the  
functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item  
25 function.

12. An apparatus for validation support comprising:
- an information input unit that inputs functional configuration information that represents a function of an apparatus to be validated;
- 5            a condition input unit that inputs a condition for an input/output sequence that is given to the apparatus;
- a generation unit that generates a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and
- 10          an extraction unit that extracts a combination of configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item function.